

## AFFAIRS OF A NATION

REVIEWED IN THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Recommendations in the Matter of Currency Reform—Review of the Great Railroad Strike—The Treasury Deficit and the Bond Issue.

### Message to Congress.

President Cleveland transmitted his annual message to both Houses of Congress Monday. The paper is not of very great length, but touches upon many important points in national policy. Among other things the President recommends withdrawal from the Samoan agreement; the construction of additional battle ships and torpedo boats; the formation of a national board of health; the authorization of short-term bonds at a low rate of interest and a reform in the national currency system. In addition he calls attention to salient points in the reports of the members of his Cabinet and especially indorses many of their recommendations. The President says:

The assemblage within the nation's legislative halls of those charged with the duty of making laws for the benefit of a generous and free people impressively suggests the exacting obligation and inexorable responsibility involved in their task. At the threshold of such labor now to be undertaken by the Congress of the United States and in the discharge of an executive duty enjoined by the Constitution, I submit this communication containing a brief statement of



PRESIDENT CLEVELAND.

the condition of our national affairs and recommending such legislation as seems to me necessary and expedient.

I have endeavored to impress upon the Belgian Government the needlessness and positive harmfulness of its restrictions upon the importation of certain of our food products, and have strongly urged that the rigid supervision and inspection under our laws are amply sufficient to prevent the exportation from this country of diseased cattle and unwholesome meat.

After referring to the restoration of peace in Brazil, and the action taken by this Government to protect American interests, the message proceeds to discuss the Oriental war, and says, concerning the mediation for peace:

Deplored the destructive war between the two most powerful of the Eastern nations, and anxious that our commercial interests in those countries may be preserved, and that the safety of our citizens there shall not be jeopardized, I would not hesitate to lend any intimation that our friendly aid for the honorable termination of hostilities would be acceptable to both belligerents.

Feeling allusion was made to the assassination of President Carnot.

Germany Bars Cattle Imports. Acting on the reported discovery of Texas fever in cargoes of American cattle, the German prohibition against importations of live stock and fresh meats from this country has been revived. It is hoped that Germany will soon become convinced that the inhibition is as needless as it is harmful to mutual interests.

The German Government has protested against that provision of the customs tariff act which imposes a discriminating duty of one-tenth of one cent a pound on sugars coming from countries paying an export bounty thereon, claiming that the exaction of such duty is in contravention of articles 5 and 9 of the treaty of 1825 with Prussia. In the interests of the commerce of both countries and to avoid even the accusation of treaty violation, I recommend the repeal of so much of the statute as imposes that duty, and I invite attention to the accompanying report of the Secretary of State containing a discussion of the questions raised by the German protests.

Payment of the sum adjudged due England by the Paris tribunal in the matter of the seal fisheries is recommended. Minor matters relating to diplomatic questions pending with Venezuela, Hawaii, and Italy are treated briefly, and of Japan the President says:

"Apart from the war in which the Island Empire is engaged Japan attracts increasing attention in this country by her evident desire to cultivate more liberal intercourse with us and to seek our kindly aid in furtherance of her laudable desire for complete autonomy in her domestic affairs and full equality in the family of nations. The Japanese Empire of today is no longer the Japan of the past, and our relations with this progressive nation should not be less broad and liberal than those with other powers."

Cordial relations with Mexico are the subject of felicitation, and there is recommended a new treaty of commerce and navigation with that country to take the place of the one which terminated thirty years ago. An indemnity tendered by Mexico, as a gracious act, for the murder in 1857 of Leon Baldwin, an American citizen, by a band of marauders in Durango, has been accepted and is being paid in installments.

The Bluefields incident in Nicaragua is reviewed at length, and the need of vessels to look out for our interests is shown.

### Relations with Russia.

The recent death of the Czar of Russia called forth appropriate expressions of sorrow and sympathy on the part of our Government with his bereaved family and the Russian people. As a further demonstration of respect and friendship, our Minister at St. Petersburg was di-

rected to represent our Government at the funeral ceremonies.

The sealing interests of Russia in the Bering Sea are second only to our own. A *modus vivendi* has therefore been concluded with the imperial government restrictive of poaching on the Russian rookeries and of sealing in waters which are not comprehended in the protected area defined in the Paris award.

Occasion has been found to urge upon the Russian Government equality of treatment for our great life-insurance companies whose operations have been extended throughout Europe. Admitting, as we do, foreign corporations to transact business in the United States, we naturally expect no less tolerance for our own in the ample fields of competition abroad.

### Domestic Affairs.

The reports of the American Secretaries are reviewed in practically the same shape as they have already appeared in the news dispatches given in these columns. Speaking of military and naval equipment, the President says:

The skill and industry of our ordnance officers and inventors have, it is believed, overcome the mechanical obstacles which have heretofore delayed the armament of our coast, and this great national undertaking upon which we have entered may now proceed as rapidly as Congress may determine. With a supply of finished guns of large calibre already on hand, to which additions should now rapidly follow, the wisdom of providing carriages and emplacements for their mount can not be too strongly urged. The Secretary presents with much earnestness a plea for the authorization of three additional battleships and ten or twelve torpedo boats. If we are to have a navy for warlike operations, offensive and defensive, we certainly ought to increase both the number of battleships and torpedo boats. The Secretary states that not more than 15 per cent of the cost of such ships need be included in the appropriations for the coming year. I recommend that provision be made for the construction of additional battleships and torpedo boats.

### Reserve Supplies Necessary.

The Secretary recommends the manufacture not only of a reserve supply of ordnance and ordnance material for ships of the navy, but also a supply for the auxiliary fleet. Guns and their appurtenances should be provided and kept on hand for both these purposes. We have not to-day a single gun that could be put upon the Paris or New York, of the International Navigation Company, or any other ship of our reserve navy. The manufacture of guns at the Washington Navy Yard is proceeding satisfactorily, and none of our new ships will be required to wait for their guns or ordnance equipment.

During the past fiscal year there has been an unusual and pressing demand in many quarters of the world for the presence of vessels to guard American interests. In January last during the Brazil insurrection a large fleet was concentrated in the harbor of Rio de Janeiro. The vigorous action of Rear Admiral Benham in protecting the personnel and commercial rights of our citizens during disturbed conditions afforded results which will, it is believed, have a far-reaching and wholesome influence whenever in like circumstances it may become necessary for our naval commanders to interfere on behalf of our people in foreign ports. The war now in progress between China and Japan has rendered it necessary or expedient to dispatch eight vessels to those waters.

Both the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Treasury recommend the transfer of the work of the Coast Survey proper to the Navy Department. I heartily concur in this recommendation.

The need of national prisons is urged; also the appointment of special agents for the protection of public lands and the timber thereon, and the appointment of a non-partisan court to hear appeals in land cases. The President thinks the Indians should be allotted their lands in severalty, and more stringent measures adopted to make them self-supporting. He also presses the necessity of stricter surveillance of Indian agents, and the extension of Indian schools.

### On the Pension Rolls.

At the close of the last fiscal year, on the 30th day of June, 1894, there were 969,544 persons on our pension rolls, being a net increase of 3,332 over the number reported at the end of the previous year. Of these pensioners 32,039 are surviving soldiers of Indian and other wars prior to the late civil war, and the widows who are relatives of such soldiers. The remainder, numbering 937,505, are receiving pensions on account of the war of the rebellion, and of these 469,344 are on the rolls under the authority of the act of June 27, 1890, sometimes called the dependent pension law.

The total amount expended for pensions during the year was \$139,804,461.05, leaving an unexpended balance from the sum appropriated of \$25,205,712.65. The sum necessary to meet pension expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1895, is estimated at \$140,000,000.

The Commissioner of Pensions is of the opinion that the year 1895 must, according to all sensible human calculation, see the highest limit in the pension roll. The number of persons on the rolls have decreased more than 90,000 during the year. A large proportion of the new claims filed are for increase of pension by those now on the rolls. The number of certificates issued was 80,213. The names dropped from the rolls for all causes during the year numbered 37,961. Among our pensioners are nine widows and three daughters of soldiers of the revolution, and forty-five survivors of the war of 1812.

The barefaced and extensive pension frauds exposed under the direction of the courageous and generous veteran soldier now at the head of the bureau leave no room for the claim that no purgation of our pension rolls was needed. The accusation that an effort to detect pension frauds is evidence of unfriendliness towards our worthy veterans and a denial of their claims to the generosity of our Government suggests an unfortunate indifference to the commission of any offense which has for motive the securing of a pension and indicates a willingness to be blind to the existence of mean and treacherous crimes which play upon democratic fears and make sport of the patriotic impulse of a grateful people.

Recommendations of the Secretary of Agriculture are concurred in, and the admirable work of the Weather Bureau and the life-saving service is warmly praised.

### Inspecting Meat Exported.

The appropriation for the Bureau of Animal Industry was \$850,000 and the expenditures for the year were only \$495,429.24, thus leaving unexpended \$354,570.76. The inspection of beef and

malis for export and interstate trade has been continued and 12,944,036 head were inspected at a cost of 13 cents per head, against 44 cents for 1893. The amount of pork microscopically examined 35,437,937 pounds, against 20,677,410 pounds in the preceding year. The cost of this inspection has been diminished from 84 cents per head in 1893 to 64 cents in 1894. The Secretary of Agriculture recommends the law providing for the microscopic inspection of export and interstate meat be so amended as to compel owners of the meat inspected to pay the cost of such inspection, and I call attention to the arguments presented in his report in support of this recommendation. The scientific inquiries of the Bureau of Animal Industry have progressed steadily during the year.

### Agricultural Experimentation.

The office of experiment stations, which is a part of the United States Department of Agriculture, has during the past year engaged itself almost wholly in preparing for publication works based upon the reports of agricultural experiment stations and other institutions for agricultural inquiry in the United States and other countries.

Under the appropriation to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to investigate and report upon the nutritive value of various articles and commodities used for human food, the Department expended in the fiscal year 1892 \$2,345,899.56; and out of that sum the total amount expended in scientific research was 45.6 per cent. But in the year ending June 30, 1894, out of a total expenditure of \$1,948,988.38, the Department applied 51.8 per cent. of that sum to scientific work and investigation.

On the subject of civil service reform the President says: "The advantages to the public service of an adherence to the principles of civil service reform are constantly more apparent; and nothing is so encouraging to those in official life who honestly desire good government as the increasing appreciation by our people of these advantages."

### Tariff Needs Amendment.

The tariff act passed at the last session of the Congress needs important amendments if it is to be executed effectively and with certainty. In addition to such necessary amendments as will not change rates of duty, I am still very decidedly in favor of putting coal and iron upon the free list. So far as the sugar schedule is concerned I would be glad, under existing aggravations, to see every particle of differential duty in favor of refined sugar stricken out of our tariff law. If with all the favor now accorded the sugar-refining interest in our tariff laws, it still leaves the United States open to the importation of thousands of discharged workmen, it would seem to present a hopeless case for reasonable legislative aid. Whatever else is done or omitted, I earnestly repeat that the additional duty of one-tenth of a cent per pound laid upon sugar imported from countries paying a bounty upon its export be abrogated. It seems to me that exceedingly important considerations point to the propriety of this amendment.

With the advent of a new tariff policy, not only calculated to relieve the commerce of our land in the cost of their daily life, but inviting a better development of American thrift and creating for us closer and more profitable commercial relations with the rest of the world, it follows as a logical and imperative necessity that we should at once remove the chief if not the only obstacle which has so long prevented our participation in the foreign carrying trade of the sea.

### Issuing of New Bonds.

During the last month the gold reserve in the Treasury for the purpose of redeeming the notes of the Government circulating now in the hands of the people became so reduced and its further depletion in the near future seemed so certain that the exercise of proper care for the public welfare it became necessary to replenish the reserve and thus maintain popular faith in the ability and determination of the Government to meet as agreed its pecuniary obligations.

It would have been well if in this emergency authority had existed to issue the bonds of the Government bearing a low rate of interest and maturing within a short period, but Congress having failed to confer such authority, resort was necessarily had to the Resumption act of 1875. Nothing could be worse or further removed from sensible finance than the relations existing between the currency the Government has issued, the gold held for its redemption and the means which must be resorted to for the purpose of replenishing such redemption when impaired. We have an endless chain in operation constantly depleting the Treasury's gold and never near a final rest.

As if this was not enough, we have by statutory declaration that it is the policy of the government to maintain the parity between gold and silver, aided the force and momentum of this exhausting process and added largely to the currency obligations claiming this peculiar gold redemption. Our small gold reserve is thus subject to drain from every side. The demands that increase our danger also increase the necessity of protecting this reserve against depletion, and it is most unsatisfactory to know that the protection afforded is only a temporary palliative.

It is perfectly and palpably plain that the only way under present conditions by which this reserve, when dangerously depleted, can be replenished, is through the issue and sale of the bonds of the government for gold; and yet Congress has not only thus far declined to authorize the issue of bonds best suited to such a purpose but there seems a disposition in some quarters to deny both the necessity and power for the issue of bonds at all. I can not for a moment believe that any of our citizens are deliberately willing that their government should default in its pecuniary obligations or that its financial operations should be reduced to a silver basis. At any rate I should not feel that my duty was done if I omitted any effort I could make to avert such a calamity.

Questions relating to our banks and currency are closely connected with the subject just referred to, and they also present some unsatisfactory features. Prominent among them are the lack of elasticity in our currency circulation and its frequent concentration in financial centers when it is most needed in other parts of the country. The absolute disavowment of the Government from the business of banking is the ideal relationship of the Government to the circulation of the currency of the country.

This condition cannot be immediately reached, but as a step in that direction, and as a means of securing a more elastic currency and obviating other objections to the present arrangement of bank circulation, the Secretary of the Treasury presents in his report a scheme for modifying present banking laws and provid-

ing for the issue of circulating notes by State banks, free from taxation under certain limitations.

The Secretary explains his plans so plainly and its advantages are developed by him with such remarkable clearness that any effort on my part to present argument in its support would be superfluous. I shall, therefore, content myself with an unqualified indorsement of the Secretary's proposed changes in the law and a brief and imperfect statement of their prominent features.

It is proposed to repeal all laws providing for the deposit of United States bonds as security for circulation; to permit national banks to issue circulating notes not exceeding in amount 75 per cent. of their paid-up and unimpaired capital, provided they deposit with the Government, as a guarantee fund, in United States legal tender notes, including Treasury notes of 1890, a sum equal in amount to 30 per cent. of the notes to be maintained at all times, but whenever any bank retires any part of its circulation a proportional part of its guarantee fund shall be returned to it; to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to prepare and keep on hand ready for issue in case an increase in circulation is desired blank national bank notes for each bank having circulation and to repeal the provisions of the present law imposing limitations and restrictions upon banks desiring to reduce or increase their circulation—thus permitting such increase or reduction within the limit of 75 per cent. of capital to be quickly made as emergencies arise.

In addition to the guarantee fund required, it is proposed to provide a safety fund for the immediate redemption of the circulating notes of failed banks by imposing a small annual tax, say one-half of 1 per cent. upon the average circulation of each bank until the fund amount to 5 per cent. of the total circulation outstanding. When a bank fails its guarantee fund is to be paid into this safety fund and its notes are to be redeemed in the first instance from such safety fund thus augmented—any impairment of such fund caused thereby to be made good from the immediately available cash assets of the bank, and if these should be insufficient such impairment to be made good by pro rata assessment among the other banks, their contributions constituting a first lien upon assets of the failed bank in favor of the contributing banks.

It is quite likely that this scheme may be usefully amended in some of its details; but I am satisfied it furnishes a basis for a very great improvement in our present banking and currency system.

I conclude this communication fully appreciating that the responsibility for all legislation affecting the people of the United States rests upon their representatives in the Congress, and assuring them that whether in accordance with recommendations I have made or not, I shall be glad to co-operate in perfecting any legislation that tends to the prosperity and welfare of our country.

WESTERN FOOT-BALL LEAGUE.

It is the Opinion of College Men that One Should Be Organized.

FOOTBALL games are over for this season. Yale won the annual game from Princeton Saturday afternoon with four touchdowns and four goals to nothing. From a scientific standpoint the game was far from being satisfactory, nor was it up to the usual standard of the game which both Yale and Princeton have exhibited in years past. The game itself, however, was totally different from the recent Yale-Harvard slugging match and was played from the start to the finish without a display of temper or a shower of blood. Just as long as the game can be played in this way it will remain the most popular of college sports.

The Western football season just closed suggests very strongly the organization of a Western Collegiate Football League. For the last few seasons certain college teams have clearly excelled all their Western rivals, and it is the opinion of many Western college men—alumni among the number—that a league should be organized. This season's work of the University of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Purdue, University of Chicago and University of Illinois excel the other Western colleges at the kicking game, just as they have done for several years. If these six institutions should establish a league it would undoubtedly greatly improve the game in the West.

With a six-college league, all the members of which had comparatively strong teams, a schedule of games could be arranged in which there would be almost as much interest as now is shown in the great games East. A point in favor of the league suggested is that four of the colleges are located in large towns, where big attendance at games would be a certainty. The exceptions are the universities of Michigan and Illinois, yet while Ann Arbor and Champaign are not large places they would doubtless turn out well to games of importance, and the attendance of the students alone would be no inconsiderable figure. Lafayette is a thorough football town and games with Purdue would always be a financial success. Almost the same can be said of Madison and the Wisconsin team.

### English University Incomes.

From the present data it is impossible to determine the total revenues of Cambridge, since the accounts of the University Chest are not given. The income of the colleges is £235,247 15s. 1d. In the case of Oxford we are more fortunate. Adding the receipts of the University Chest, £26,194 7s. 9d., and of the colleges, £438,666 3s. 2d., we have a grand total of £700,108 11s. 11d. This, however, is somewhat too large, for the contribution of the colleges to the University Chest, £7,097 4s. 9d., is counted twice. Making the necessary subtraction, there remains £47,713 6s. 2d. It is therefore approximately correct to say that the annual revenues of Oxford are £500,000, or £2,500,000.

### Killed for Playing on the Grass.

In Prussia the murder of men, women and children is frequent by the bayonets and the bullets of guards and sentinels. The other day a little boy was on the grass of a square in Berlin; the guard tried to arrest him; the child, frightened, ran away; the guard shot him dead. Such occurrences are frequent. If a newspaper reporter told them the editor is imprisoned.—Ouida in the Fortnightly Review.

## TREASON IS CHARGED.

LI HUNG CHANG ACCUSED OF BETRAYING CHINA.

Said to Have Favored Japan and to Have Sold Her War Secrets and Ammunition—Organized Attack on the Great Viceroy.

### Plotted Against the Empire.

His majesty the Emperor of China has been memorialized by over one hundred of the highest officials in his empire for the impeachment of General Li Hung Chang. Advice from Shanghai says the important memorial has caused a profound sensation. The disgraced prime minister is charged with corruption, peculation and deception. The memorial also declares that Li Hung Chang has openly rejoiced at the successive important victories by land and sea of the country's enemies, the Japanese, and that by his deliberate action he virtually prevented the Chinese from achieving success. The prime minister is said by the memorial to have represented that China was fully equipped and well prepared for war when he was well aware of the fact that the country was ill able to contend against the forces of Japan.

It is further charged that he has been implicated with Prince Kung, the uncle of the Chinese Emperor and President of the Tsung Li Yamen and of the Admiralty, who was recently appointed to the po-



LI HUNG CHANG.  
(China's disgraced Prime Minister.)

sition of dictator, and with the Taotai Wu and the commander of the forces at Port Arthur.

Gen. Li Hung Chang, who is declared to be the prime mover in the alleged conspiracy against his own country, was born in the Anh-Huei province of China on Feb. 16, 1823. In 1890 he co-operated with General (then Colonel) Gordon in suppressing the Taiping rebellion, being then Governor of the Thian-Sin province. The other Thian province being added to his rule, he was created Viceroy of the united provinces in May, 1895. The following year he was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary, and in 1897 Viceroy of Hong-Kuang, and a grand chancellor in 1898. After the Tien-Tsin massacre in 1870, he was despoiled of his titles and otherwise punished on the charge of not assisting the general in command, but in 1872 the then Emperor restored him to favor and offered him the office of Grand Chancellor. He was the mediator for fixing the indemnity for the murder of Mr. Margary, who was killed in 1876 while endeavoring to explore southwestern China. Then he was appointed Viceroy of the metropolitan provinces of Pe-Chih-Li, and as such has been the administrator of the Chinese empire. He has been regarded as a man of liberal views, and has permitted coal-mining and coast steamer traffic to be carried on by English companies, and it has been thought that he would be favorable even to the building of railways.

### MINT DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

Shows the Volume of Gold and Silver Purchased and Coined.

R. E. Preston, the director of the Mint, has submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury his report of the Mint and Assay Offices for the fiscal year 1894. The value of the gold deposited is stated as \$149,942,545; \$38,698,951 was of domestic production, \$28,000,525 foreign bullion and coin, \$3,118,421 old material. \$2,063,615 worn and uncurrent United States gold coin deposited for recoinage.

The deposits and purchases of silver during the year were 22,746,661 fine ounces, the coining value of the same in silver dollars being \$29,400,827. Nineteen million seven hundred and seventy-seven thousand and seven hundred dollars was of domestic production, \$1,832,800 foreign bullion and coin, \$6,481,404 worn and uncurrent United States coin, and the remainder, \$895,036, old material. The amount of silver bullion purchased under the act of July 14, 1890, was 11,917,659 fine ounces, at a cost of \$8,715,521; the average cost per fine ounce being \$0.7313. The total amount of silver purchased under the act of July 14, 1890, from Aug. 13, 1890, the date the law went into effect, to Nov. 1, 1893, the date of the repeal of the purchasing clause of that act, was 108,674,682 fine ounces, costing \$155,531,002; the average price per fine ounce being \$0.9244.

The total coining of silver dollars under the act of July 14, 1890, to July 1, 1894, was 36,087,943, consuming 27,911,708 fine ounces, which cost \$29,110,647. The seigniorage of silver coined under act of July 14, 1890, to July 1, 1894, was \$3,977,296. From July 1, 1894, to Nov. 1, 1894, 2,413,200 dollars were coined, the seigniorage of the same was \$786,764.27, making the total amount of silver dollars coined under the act of July 14, 1890, 38,501,143, and the total seigniorage \$7,764,060. The total coining during the year was: Gold, \$99,474,912.50; silver dollars, 758; subsidiary silver, \$6,024,140.30; minor coins, \$719,919.26; total, \$106,216,730.06.

The gold coining for the year was the largest ever executed at the mints of the United States in any one year. The highest price of silver during the year was \$0.7645, and the lowest \$0.5018, showing a fluctuation of \$0.1225 per fine ounce. The net gold exports for the fiscal year were \$4,172,665 as against \$86,897,275 for the prior fiscal year. The net exports of silver for the fiscal year were \$31,041,359 as against \$7,653,813 for the fiscal year 1893. The director estimates the value of the gold used in the industrial arts in the United States during the calendar year 1893 at \$12,523,523, and silver at \$6,534,277; of the gold \$8,354,482 and of the silver \$6,570,737 was new bullion.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

AN INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE LESSON.

Reflections of an Elevating Character—Wholesome Food for Thought—Studying the Scriptural Lesson Intelligently and Profitably.

### Lesson for Dec. 9.

Golden Text—"The seed is the word of God."—Luke 8: 11.

The lesson this week is found in Luke 8: 4-15, and may be entitled "Christ Teaching by Parables." The parable of the sower is one of the most popular and familiar of all our Savior's published utterances. It has a basis of appeal that is world-wide and heart-deep. Everywhere seed are being sown, and plants are growing, and so everywhere this lesson is speaking. Everywhere hearts are open to influences, good and bad, which tell for eternity, and so everywhere the searching teachings of the Scripture have weight and potency. It is only needed that the word be expounded to be caught up and received as the very truth of God and nature everywhere. What men need is a right interpreter of God's ceaseless parables. Christ himself is that interpreter. Let His voice go forth to-day through this timely lesson to the ends of the earth, carrying like the dawn, piercing like the dart.

"Much people gathered together." Whence came they? The first verse of the chapter tells. Christ was going abroad "throughout every city and village, preaching and strewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God." Is not the heart of man still yearning for "glad tidings?" They "were to come to him out of every city." It is worth noting that he had previously himself gone to them "throughout every city and village." One is reminded of the saying, "A house-giving pastor makes a church-going people." Are the people coming to us from all houses and hamlets? It might be well to inquire further, how we go into houses and hamlets after them? "He spoke by a parable." The word parable means to put beside; it is a method of clearing up by comparison or illustration. "A sower went out to sow his seed."

An epitome of life. Every man is a sower of seed, good or bad, good and bad. With the beginning of his intelligent career he goes forth as a sower of seed. He does not see where the seed falls, he does not even know, at times, that he is sowing; but God knows, and hence he bids us to walk carefully, to go through life circumspectly. Every man is a sower. In a particular and large sense the teacher and preacher is a sower of seed. He is such deliberately and purposely, in a degree, professionally. Sunday is a great sowing day. God only sees the harvest that come from it. But there are other times of sowing. Throughout the week, in chance meetings, by business integrity, professional faithfulness, in home temper and demeanor, the seed is being sown, albeit we are not always aware. The Christian is called to be a ceaseless sower of the seed which is the word of truth.

Wayside-hearers. We have them in our classes and our congregations and our acquaintanceship. The little birds of vagrant fancy innocent-appearing, but destructive to good impressions, are flying everywhere. Emissaries of the devil Jesus calls them. Beware of them, prepare for them, make allowance for them—and sow accordingly. We may also add, receive accordingly, for the responsibility is a double one. Take heed, also, how ye hear. Stony-ground hearers. They are all about us. There is some rocky soil in every heart. Be on guard. Mere flashes of interest on emotion—what do they amount to? Root work means hard work; it has to do with sweat of brow, inside and out. Instruction that abides because of rootage, means painstaking and watchfulness on the part of both giver and receiver. Temptations are everywhere. Dig deep. Turn out the stones, get down to the soil, plant the seed well.

### Hints and Illustrations.

Christ taught by parables. He is doing so still. Nature is full of these picture lessons. The nineteenth Psalm ("The heavens declare the glory of God") makes mention of this fact. Springtime, summer, and winter are, as it were, different chapter headings in the serial books of God's praise. It is well to call attention to this, and to let the recurring season but re-echo the word of gospel truth. Every time a pertinent illustration from nature is given the longevity of the lesson is insured. Wherever the object reappears, the pictured truth comes back with it. Here let Christ, the great teacher of teachers, instruct us. Use parables and illustrations.

Pre-empt the ground for God. Some one was inquiring, infidel-wise, for free thought and a mind unprejudiced for God. He was taken to the garden and saw two patches; one of strawberries, the other of weeds. The strawberries were the fruits of "prejudiced," the weeds of unprejudiced soil. Some one, on being asked a remedy for temptation, responded "Keep yourself so full of Christ that sin can find no crevice in which to breed mischief."

We are sowing seed oftener and more than we think. At the close of a series of meetings two ministers who had been laboring together for souls, parted from each other, one accompanying the other a short distance upon the way. Just before they said good-by, they knelt in a little grove and prayed. They did not know that any one saw them. But a man in the field had observed it all. It set him thinking. The seed germinated. He saw what a sinner he was, and he came to the church to make public confession of Christ.

"Sow in the morn thy seed,  
At eve hold not thine hand;  
To doubt and fear give thou no heed,  
Broadcast it o'er the land.  
Thou canst not tell in vain;  
Cold, heat, and moist and dry,  
Shall foster and mature the grain  
For garner in the sky."

Next Lesson—"The Twelve Sent Forth." Matt. 10: 5-16.

### This and That.

In 1890 New York City had 455,339 boys and girls of school age.

The taxes of the people of this country equal at \$10 to each inhabitant.

A HOUSE well built of first-class brick will outlast one constructed of granite.

OWING to the altitude, it is almost impossible to find potatoes in the City of Mexico.

THERE are between 300 and 400 educated female pharmacists in the United States.